



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

PROCEEDINGS
OF
THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY
OF LONDON.

SESSION 1861-62.

Fourth Meeting, Monday, January 13th, 1862.

SIR RODERICK I. MURCHISON, VICE-PRESIDENT, in the Chair.

PRESENTATIONS.—*Lord Rollo; Deane J. Hoare; John Holmes; and W. Johnson, R.N., Esqrs., were presented upon their Election.*

ELECTIONS. — *Commr. Richard Charles Mayne, R.N.; Rev. Jordan Palmer, M.A.; Sir Joshua Rowe, C.B.; Colonel H. Dalrymple White, C.B.; George F. Banks, Surg., R.N.; Alfred Barton; Latimer Clark; James Goddard, Jun.; James M'Cosh, M.D.; Thomas Martin; Henry Nourse; George D. Ramsay; Augustus Thorne; and William F. Webb, Esqrs., were elected Fellows.*

ACCESSIONS.—Among the Accessions to the Library and Map-rooms since the former meeting were—Ravenstein's 'Russians on the Amur;' Abstracts of the Principal Lines of Spirit Levelling in Scotland, by the Ordnance Survey; Haast's 'Report on the Nelson Province of New Zealand;' Sykes' 'Notes on Progress of Trade of England with China;' Davidson's 'Directory for Pacific Coast of the United States;' 'Description de l'Afrique,' by Dapper; Mouat's 'Rough Notes of a Trip to Reunion, the Mauritius, and Ceylon;' Transactions of various Scientific Societies at home and abroad; complete suit of a Japanese Warrior, from Consul Pemberton Hodgson, &c. &c.

EXHIBITIONS.—Several Photographs taken in the Andaman Islands, and various bows and arrows, nets and drinking-vessels, used by the Aborigines of these islands, were exhibited.

The CHAIRMAN, in opening the meeting, said it was his duty to announce that the Council of the Society had forwarded to the Secretary of State for presentation to Her Majesty, the following Address of Condolence on the death of the late Prince Consort, which had been duly acknowledged by H.M. Secretary of State for the Home Department:—

“ MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY,

“ WE, the President and Council of the Royal Geographical Society, respectfully tender the expression of our heartfelt condolence to your Majesty on the mournful occasion of the decease of your illustrious Consort.

“ Profoundly grieved as the heart of the nation has been by this sad calamity, we, uniting with the multitude of His Royal Highness's admirers, urgently desire to testify our deep sense of the irreparable loss which science and art have sustained by the death of our gifted and enlightened Vice-Patron.

“ As men enabled from the nature of our pursuits to take a wide retrospect of the many good deeds of His Royal Highness, we specially advert to the well-known and gratefully acknowledged facts that your Majesty's lamented Consort largely promoted and diffused scientific knowledge both by precept and example; and, to the great advantage of your people, successfully applied such knowledge to the improvement of the various industries of Britain and her Colonies.

“ Representing a scientific Society of which your Majesty is the gracious Patron, we repeat the expression of our profound sympathy, and earnestly pray that, with the aid of Divine Providence, your Majesty may be enabled so to sustain your heavy bereavement as long to continue to be a blessing to your faithful and loyal people.

“ *January 4th, 1862.*”

The Chairman, in continuation, greatly regretted that their President was prevented by illness from attending the meeting and taking the chair, as it was Lord Ashburton's especial wish to address the Society upon this mournful subject. His Lordship would, however, take the opportunity of doing so on a future occasion, and would doubtless expatiate fully thereon at the ensuing anniversary.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.—The Chairman announced to the meeting two very important geographical facts, which would probably be the subjects of future papers read before the Society. 1st. A letter from Sir Henry Barkly, Governor of Victoria, stating that Messrs. Burke and Wills had crossed the Australian Continent to the Gulf of Carpentaria, and returned to Cooper's Creek, where they had miserably perished from starvation (see pp. 53 and 68). 2ndly. That a letter had been received from Mr. Thornton, who accompanied Baron von der Decken, stating that they had returned to Mombas, after reaching and partly ascending Kilimanjaro; whose top was covered with snow, and whose height was trigonometrically measured to be about 20,000 feet (see p. 47).

The Papers read were—

1. *Brief Narrative of an Expedition to the Andaman Islands, in 1857.*
By F. J. MOUAT, M.D., of the Bengal Army, F.R.G.S., &c.

A COMMISSION was appointed by the Governor-General of India, in 1857, to examine the Andaman Islands, with a view of selecting a suitable spot for a penal settlement. The mutineers of the great Indian Rebellion were to be sent there, and the islands were ultimately to form a station for the reception of all felons who were sentenced to transportation from India. Dr. Mouat was appointed the chief of the commission; his associates were Dr. George Playfair, to whom the medical and scientific duties were assigned, and Lieut. Heathcote, who undertook the hydrography.

Very little recent intelligence was procurable about these islands, though part of their coasts had been carefully surveyed by Lieut. Blair, in 1789, and a penal settlement had actually been established upon them at the same date, but abandoned, in 1795, on account of its unhealthiness. Col. Colebrook, afterwards Surveyor-General of India, had visited the Andamans, and published a short vocabulary of the language of the natives. Others also had published short accounts in the beginning of this century; but of late years no information whatever had been obtained about the Andamans, except through the narratives of shipwrecked persons, who invariably represented the aborigines as exceedingly savage and hostile. Dr. Helps endeavoured to explore the islands in 1840, but he was murdered shortly after his arrival. The Andamaners were usually reputed cannibals.

Dr. Mouat's commission was accompanied by a large escort, including a useful body of Burmese convicts sent to aid them in pioneering. They sailed to their destination in a steamer of light draught, and ultimately proceeded in making a thorough examina-